Balochistan asks ECP to delay Quetta LG polls

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has asked the provincial election commission to postpone the upcoming local government elections in Quetta.

Official sources said that the provincial government formally sent a letter to the Balochistan election commissioner, requesting the authorities concerned to postpone the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation elections due to harsh weather conditions and prevailing security concerns.

The commissioner was formally informed that Quetta was facing harsh cold weather and most of the people in winter travel to other areas of the country, mainly Karachi, to spend winter vacation.

On the other hand, the provincial authorities had also issued a threat alert in Quetta, due to which internet and mobile data services remained suspended in the provincial capital.

Earlier, on October 6, a bench of the Balochistan High Court had rejected constitutional petitions filed by many people regarding postponement of elections of QMC and directed the election commissioner of Balochistan to hold local government elections as soon as possible.

In view of the BHC orders, the election commissioner had started preparation for holding of elections in Quetta. The Provincial Election Commissioner, Ali Asghar Sial, had announced all preparations for the election are underway and soon the election will be held.

In compliance with the court's order, the Deputy Commissioner of Quetta has already been appointed as the District Returning Officer (DRO) for the electoral process.

The government maintains that holding elections under the current circumstances could hinder voter turnout and pose security risks to people.

The election commission is expected to review the government request and make a decision regarding the rescheduling of Quetta's local government polls.

Professional Panel wins Balochistan Bar Council elections

QUETTA: The Professional Panel, also known as the Hamid Khan group, won the Balochistan Bar Council elections, securing six out of eight seats, while its rival Independent Panel managed to win only two.

According to election results, the Professional Panel bagged three of the four seats from the Quetta Zone, while Independent Panel, also known as the late Asma Jhangir group, took one. In the remaining four seats from other parts of Balochistan, the Professional Panel won three more seats.

For the five-year Balochistan Bar Council elections, five zones were established across the province. From Quetta Zone, Afzal Harifal, Nadir Chhalgari, and Najeeb Kakar of the Professional Panel, and Mir Attaullah Lango of the Independent Panel were elected as members. In total, 1,474 lawyers cast their votes in Quetta. Mir Attaullah Lango secured the highest number of votes with 529, followed by Afzal Harifal with 499, Nadir Chhalgari with 472, and Najeeb Kakar with 470.

From other divisions, Jadeen Dashti (Mekran), Raheb Buledi (Nasirabad), and Ayaz Mandokhail (Zhob) of the Professional Panel were elected, while Khalid Mehmood from Kalat won on the rival's ticket. — Saleem Shahid

GUJRANWALA: A farmer spreads rice grains to dry.—PPI

Four bodies found in Kech

By Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Four mutilated bodies were recovered on Sunday from a hilly area of Buleda in Kech district, a week after the men went missing, officials said.

According to families, the victims had gone to Buleda's Jardine area for a picnic and did not return.

Residents later alerted the administration to unattended bodies in the area. Levies personnel reached the site, took the bodies into custody and shifted them to a hospital.

The victims were identified as Zakir, Abdul Razzaq, Sadiq and Pir Jan. Three of them were residents of Zardan Koha, Buleda, while the fourth belonged to Jardine Bazaar. Officials said the bodies bore severe mutilation and the men's motorbikes were found burnt. The heirs of the deceased left for the area to receive the remains.

Meanwhile, unidentified assailants intercepted a man and his son travelling by motorcycle in the Tump area of Kech on Sunday evening and opened fire on the son, identified as Abdul Rehman, who died on the spot. The attackers managed to flee after the incident.

The motive of the killing remained unknown, whereas the Levies have opened an investigation into the incident. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Punjab govt extends ban on gatherings

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protect human lives and property. "The Punjab government issued orders in view of the concerns of terrorism and public order," it said, clarifying that the ban does not apply to wedding ceremonies, funerals, and burials.

Moreover, officers and officials present on official duties and courts are also exempted from the ban, while loudspeakers can be used only for Azan and Friday sermons, the statement added.

The ban was initially imposed on Oct 8 for 10 days and then for a further seven days on Oct 18.

The decision to extend the ban for another seven days was taken by the Cabinet Committee for Law and Order in its 39th meeting held at the home department due to security threats amid continuing tensions with the banned party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan.

Later on Oct 25, the Punjab government extended the imposition of Section 144 for another week.

New spox for foreign media

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Policy expert Mosharraf Ali Zaidi has been appointed as the prime minister's spokesperson on foreign media, a notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Sunday.

Mr Zaidi, who writes columns for a national daily, has already been serving as an aide to the PM on economic affairs.

Talking to *Dawn*, he said he had been tasked with dealing with the foreign media and building Pakistan's global image.

He said he considered himself lucky to get a new assignment at a time when Pakistan's international standing is quite high, following its 'victory' in the summer conflict with India, the signing of a recent defence pact with Saudi Arabia, and the country's memorable role in the Gaza peace agreement.

Welcoming Mr Zaidi, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar also called the appointment "a great addition to our team".

Deputation of varsity staff restricted

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, who is chancellor of all public sector universities in the province, has imposed a ban on the deputation of teaching and non-teaching staff of varsities to other departments.

The governor, in an official letter to vice chancellors, pointed out that many faculty members and staff of public universities in the province were serving on deputation in other government departments and institutions, leading to a shortage of staff in universities. Taking notice of the situation, the governor has prohibited all kinds of deputations for university employees.

Bid to revive party's fortunes

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mandate to engage with the government on behalf of the PTI. However, as a concerned citizen, he said he wanted the volatile political climate to stabilise.

According to the ex-PTI leader, his group will meet the National Assembly speaker and the Senate chairman next week to ask them to play a role in defusing political tensions.

He claimed that most seasoned PTI politicians and more than 15 MPAs had approached him to express their agreement that a government-PTI engagement was "highly necessary". He urged the government to take the first step towards de-escalation by offering relief to imprisoned senior PTI leaders.

"If the government gives relief to the incarcerated Lahore and Gujranwala leaders, then these leaders could engage with the jailed Khan and lead a process of engagement," he explained. "Imran Khan's mandate is with the party leaders, who have been in jails for the past two years," he acknowledged, referring to people like Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Dr Yasmin Rashid.

"If the government does not leave any stake for the opposition in the system, the opposition will be left with no option but to hold long marches, resign from assemblies and resort to other modes of protest," he rued.

It may be noted that the government and opposition held a series of talks in the recent past, which did not prove fruitful.

"Until the three major players — Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari – and the establishment engage with the incarcerated seasoned politicians, no political engagement will be possible in a volatile situation," he added.

Speaking about his "meeting" with Mr Qureshi and Ejaz Chaudhry, he said he planned to take these leaders on board in light of their letters from jail in which they had urged the party chief for dialogue to break the political deadlock. The incarcerated leaders had written a letter to their jailed chief to consider a dialogue with other political parties instead of insisting on only talking to the military establishment.

Downplaying overtures

On the other hand, former NA speaker and PTI stalwart Asad Qaiser played down the recent overtures by his former party colleagues, saying they would be prepared to talk only if the "stolen mandate" was returned to the "true representatives".

"The fact is that we have been suggesting for years that the PTI is ready to talk to everyone only if justice is provided to the party without creating any hurdles," Mr Qaiser told *Dawn*.

"We just want the court cases to be decided on merit. We are willing to talk with anyone about deciding the modalities of the next election and assurances that the next election will be free and fair," he said.

When asked if it was correct that some party leaders wanted to "streamline" the issues with the establishment, but were reluctant due to Imran Khan, Mr Qaiser said that some individuals may have their personal opinions, but it was not the party policy. "During party meetings, it is categorically stated that there will not be any compromise on principles," he said.

However, Fawad Chaudhry said the PTI leadership had failed to create any breakthrough to get Imran Khan out of jail during the past two years. He claimed that he had told Mr Khan that many politicians in the party had vested interests attached to his imprisonment and they would make no efforts to help him get out of jail.

No 'minus formula'

His colleague Imran Ismail dispelled the impression that they were working on a 'minus Imran formula' and termed their outreach campaign an "effort to move Pakistan's politics away from confrontation".

"We privately consulted a number of PTI stalwarts. Almost all admitted that confrontation has failed and that reconciliation is the only way forward," he said in a lengthy statement posted on X (formerly Twitter).

"When we met Chaudhry Ejaz in Kot Lakhpat Jail and Shah Mehmood Qureshi at PKLI, both — while firmly standing with Khan — agreed that the stalemate must end. They sought normal political breathing space, not surrender," he said.

He said if any PTI leader believed that "continuing agitation and confrontation is the right path, he should come forward and convince the rest of us who think otherwise".

Three cops hurt in Hangu blast

Continued from Page 1

heighten security in the area.

IED expert killed

Meanwhile, security forces eliminated Abu Dujana, an Afghan national identified as a specialist bombmaker, during an intelligence-led raid in Tank district's Lali Khel area.

The operation, which saw two or three militants escape despite sustaining injuries, yielded a significant cache of weaponry including a 30kg IED, which was promptly neutralised, and a suicide vest, grenades, small arms and ammunition, according to sources

Kalat bridge bomb defused

Separately in Balochistan, locals helped avert potential disaster by alerting authorities to explosives planted beneath a bridge in Kalat district's Johan area.

Security forces rushed to the site and defused the 10-kilogram device, which a senior levies official described as "locally manufactured" and intended to destroy critical infrastructure in the Johan sub-tehsil.

He added that a further investigation is underway.

Umer Farooq, Sami Paracha and Abdul Wahid Shahwani also contributed to this report

WB asks Pakistan to overhaul trade pacts

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export market compliance, and promoting Pakistan's exports abroad.

Therefore, fundamental constraints to firm productivity remain unaddressed, including the exorbitant cost of electricity and limited access to core digital infrastructure.

"In combination, these challenges have led to missing exports of close to $60 billion," the World Bank said and advised a large set of reforms, including deepening preferential free trade agreements for expanding markets.

The bank said free or preferential agreements with other countries serve as a critical lever for strengthening competitiveness and market access by reducing barriers and addressing trade facilitation issues, such as customs procedures, standards and investment integration, thereby creating an enabling environment for exporters to expand and diversify.

But these agreements, in the case of Pakistan, remained underutilised, leading to missed opportunities. "Pakistan remains party to only 10 trade agreements, most of which are shallow and limited to tariff liberalisation on a narrow set of goods," it said. The China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement covers a larger share of areas, including tariffs, investment and trade facilitation, while agreements with Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the South Asian Free Trade Agreement remain partial in scope," the bank pointed out. This leaves Pakistan behind its aspirational peers, which leverage a greater number and depth of agreements to embed themselves in global value chains and attract investment. "Deepening existing trade agreements and expanding coverage under those agreements to services, non-tariff measures and investment will be key," it said.

The World Bank asked the government to enhance the capacity of the negotiation unit through targeted training, ensure regular consultations with exporters and industry to align agreements with business opportunities and establish mechanisms to monitor implementation and performance of trade agreements.

It also suggested active exploration of avenues to upgrade existing shallow preferential trade agreements towards deeper agreements covering services, investment and digital trade, including those with non-traditional export markets in regions with export potential, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

The bank welcomed recent tariff reforms but said they needed to be complemented by a flexible exchange rate, full operationalisation of the EXIM Bank of Pakistan, stronger trade facilitation and broader structural reforms to boost export competitiveness. The World Bank called for capacity building of the National Tariff Commission to monitor, evaluate and implement anti-dumping and countervailing measures to protect against unfair trade practices and focus on trade negotiation efforts on further tariff reductions with key and emerging trade partners.

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1	Reconstruction of PARCO Beach Hut at Hawksbay, Karachi.	Rs. 689,000/-	Bid Submission Through SAP Ariba 17.11.2025 15:00 PST Bid Opening: 17.11.2025 15:30 PST	Tender Issuance Through SAP Ariba 03.11.2025 to 10.11.2025 / Free of Cost.	https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/23531721

Any party interested to participate in the tender may send its request for tender document through SAP Ariba Portal Link. Complete details are also available on the PARCO website **https://www.parco.com.pk/tenders**

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Position	Site Work Admin Officer
Department	Mine Technical Services
Location	Reko Diq Mine Site – Balochistan
Qualification	Diploma or bachelor's degree in business administration, Management, or a related field.
Experience	Minimum 2-3 years in an administrative role, preferably in mining, construction, or heavy industry.
Requirements	Highly organized and skilled at multitasking, with proficiency in MS Office applications (Excel, Word, Outlook). Strong communication and reporting abilities, capable of working independently in remote site environments. Familiar with HSE procedures and mining operations, and comfortable with roster-based site work (28/14). Possesses basic knowledge of petty cash handling and expense tracking.
Responsibilities	Manages site administration by maintaining accurate records, coordinating travel, onboarding staff and contractors, and overseeing office supplies and PPE inventory. Prepares manpower reports, monthly administrative data, and operational updates while ensuring full compliance with HSE policies. Supervises daily site activities, coordinates with internal departments, local authorities, and external partners, organizes meetings with proper documentation, and monitors logistics such as fuel and water supply to support smooth site operations.

Position	Site Accommodation Lead
Department	Travel and Facilities
Location	Reko Diq SITE - Balochistan
Qualification	Bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management, Business Administration, or a related field preferred, with certification or training in accommodation management or similar disciplines considered an advantage.
Experience	Minimum 7-8 years of experience in accommodation management, preferably in remote mining or construction site environments, with at least 2 years in a leadership role managing accommodation facilities or teams.
Requirements	Strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills, with the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment. Proficient in accommodation management software and MS Office Suite, with in-depth knowledge of health, safety, and environmental standards. Flexible to work in remote locations with extended hours, culturally sensitive, able to work with a diverse workforce, and possesses strong problem-solving and decision-making abilities.
Responsibilities	Oversees daily operations of accommodation facilities, ensuring quality, safety, and comfort standards are met. Manages the accommodation team, including housekeeping, catering, and maintenance staff, while coordinating room bookings and efficient occupancy. Ensures compliance with health, safety, and environmental regulations, monitors budgets for cost-effective operations, and conducts regular inspections to resolve issues. Acts as the primary contact for accommodation-related concerns and assists in planning and executing facility upgrades or expansions.

Position	Lawyer
Department	Legal
Location	Karachi, with some travel to Dubai
Qualification	Bachelor's or master's degree in law (LLB/LLM) from a recognized institution; Admission to practice law in Pakistan (valid Pakistan Bar Council license required).
Experience	Minimum 5-9 years of post-qualification experience (PQE) in commercial, litigation, or corporate law. Prior experience in the mining, energy, infrastructure, or large industrial sectors will be an advantage.
Requirements	Requires a strong understanding of Pakistani laws, regulations, and court procedures, along with proven experience in contract negotiations, regulatory matters, and legal correspondence. Excellent drafting, negotiation, and analytical skills, and strong command of written and spoken English and Urdu are essential. Must be able to manage multiple priorities, work independently as well as in a team, and demonstrate initiative and problem-solving abilities. Exposure to litigation and dispute resolution processes will be an advantage. A high level of integrity, confidentiality, and professional ethics is required.
Responsibilities	Provide legal advice and support on operational, regulatory, and contractual matters across company functions. Draft, review, negotiate contracts and other legal documents, and manage litigation, dispute resolution, and international arbitration cases. Ensure compliance with Pakistani and international laws, licenses, and regulatory requirements. Support company secretarial functions and maintain statutory records and filings. Liaise with government bodies, regulators, and external counsel, and prepare legal reports and opinions for management. Contribute to corporate governance, compliance training, and implementation of Barrick Mining's legal and ethical standards.

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